MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress Assembled:

Whereas, Certain bills are now pending before your honorable body, which, if passed, will break up happy homes and families and produce untold misery, sorrow and suffering; will deprive us of the kind, fostering care of honorable, upright, God-fearing fathers, and drive forth our precious, loving mothers as outcasts; as those who have no right to the honored name of wife, and also cast opprobrium upon many of us as illegitimate; and,

Whereas, The passage of such bills would deprive our fathers, mothers and brothers (and ourselves, when properly qualified) of the right of franchise, and, in fact, of all the rights of American citizens, debarring us of the free exercise of our holy religion, which is dearer to us than life itself; and would be contrary to the spirit of the glorious Constitution of our country, which we have ever been taught to revere as an inspiration from Almighty God: for we have been taught, and conscientiously believe that plural marriage is as much a part of our religion, as are faith, repentance and baptism; and,

Whereas, In our opinion, the cause of the introduction of such bills has been the false representations of evil disposed persons, who assert we are low, ignorant, degraded and disloyal; and, feeling assured that, had your honorable body been truthfully advised in regard to the people of this Territory, such bills would never have obtained a hearing in the Congress of this mighty nation;

Now, therefore, we, the young ladies of Utah Territory, do most solemnly and truthfully declare that neither we nor our mothers are held in bondage, but that we enjoy the greatest possible freedom socially and religiously; that our homes are happy ones, and we are neither low nor degraded; for the principles of purity, virtue, integrity and loyalty to the government of the United States have been instilled into our minds and hearts since our earliest childhood.

According to what we read, and can learn from other sources, in no place in the world is female chastity and virtue guarded with more jealous care than by our people; for we have been taught and do understand that this is our greatest boon; far above jewels or wealth, and more precious than life itself; and we therefore most respectfully memorialize your honorable body to suspend further action on all bills relating to Utah, and send a commission of honorable, intelligent, and unprejudiced men and women to inquire into, and learn the true state of affairs in this Territory;

And as in duty bound, your memorialists will ever pray.

March, 1882.

Young Ladies'

Petition to Congress